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## LOCAL NEWS

### Commissioner Niki Frenchko's criminal case dismissed

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NEWTON FALLS, Ohio (WKBN) – Trumbull County Commissioner Michele “Niki” Frenchko has had her criminal case dismissed.

Frenchko’s attorney Dave Betras said that her case involving a charge of disrupting a lawful meeting has been dropped. Portage County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Raymond Srp filed the dismissal of the charge, noting that there was “insufficient evidence to proceed.”

“We believe this is exactly what took place at this meeting, and we intend to hold those responsible no matter their position, whether they be a clerk, whether they be a sheriff’s deputy or whoever. We’re gonna hold them accountable...This is the United States of America, not a dictatorship where despots like Vladimir Putin, Bashar al-Assad, Mohammed bin Salman and Kim Jong-un slap their political opponents in irons and throw them in jail or put ‘em against the wall,” said Betras.

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Frenchko's arrest came on July 7, while Frenchko was responding to a letter written by Trumbull County Sheriff Paul Monroe, read by the clerk

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shows the arrest.



eeting last month. That email, sent to tment at the jail.

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In an interview after she was released from jail, Frenchko said her arrest was politically motivated. Monroe denied that, saying deputies gave her more latitude than a normal person, saying they would have been removed from the disruptions that she caused.

"What she did violated the law, and she forced our deputies to take official action," he said in July.



.Jailing those with opposing views should :lub' who schemed to jail me...getting this case

She and Betras said they will now consider filing a federal civil rights lawsuit claiming her rights to free speech were violated.

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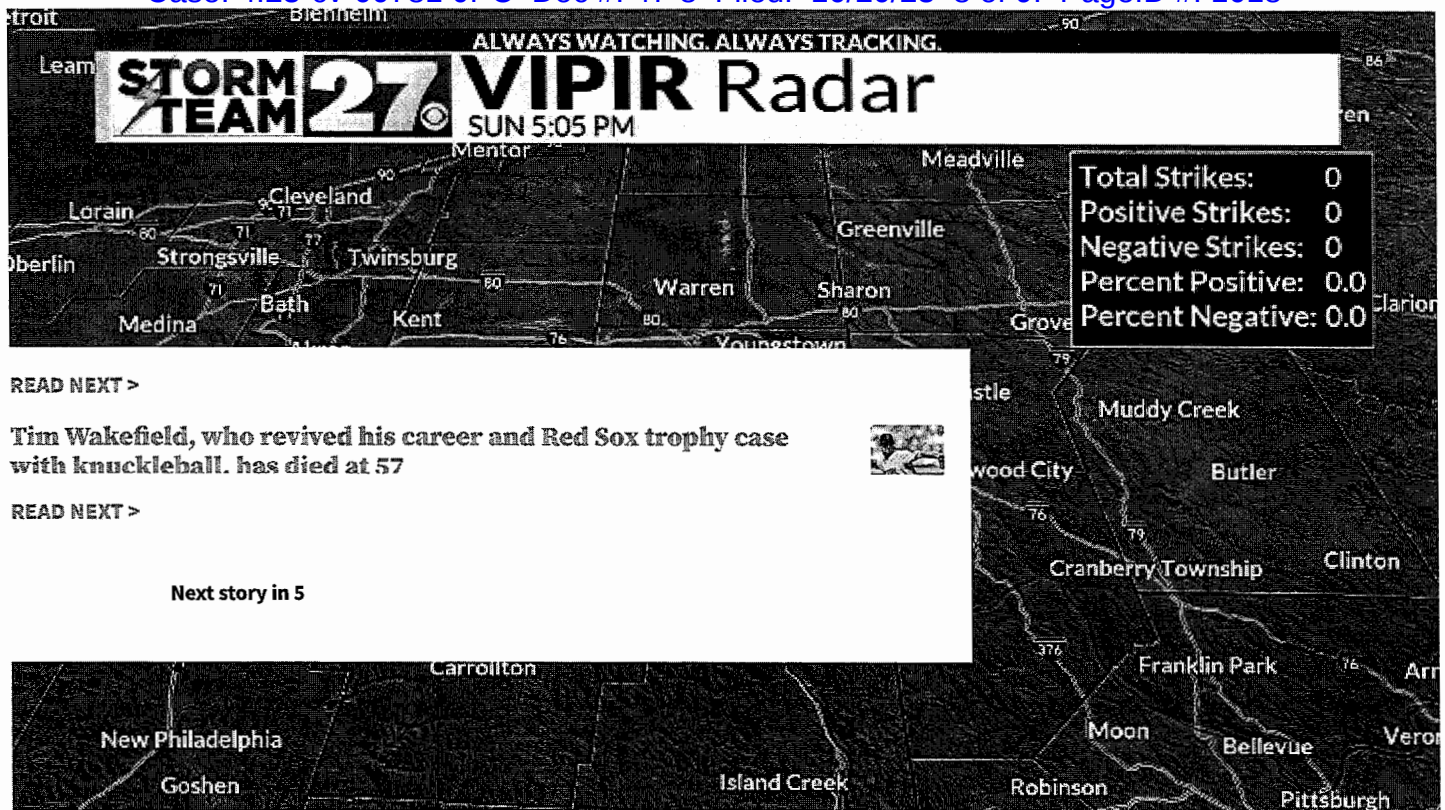
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